

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

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CINCPAC

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S E C R E T STATE 173839

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS -- ARTICLE XIX

REF: MANILA 10023

1. WE WILL BE SEEKING AUTHORITY FOR YOU TO TABLE A U.S.

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QUID OFFER. BEFORE WE CAN OBTAIN THIS AUTHORIZATION WE

MUST BE CERTAIN THAT PHILS HAVE DECIDED TO DROP THE CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE LABELLED "DEFENSE SUPPORT" AND ARE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR ONLY GRANT MAP AND FMS CREDITS. WE THEREFORE ASK YOU TO CONFIRM THAT GOP HAS FALLEN OFF THIS THIRD CATEGORY AS REFTEL IMPLIES.

2. MOREOVER, LACK OF PHILIPPINE MOVEMENT ON OPERATIONAL ISSUES OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO US RAISES SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE TIMING OF TABLING A QUID. WHILE WE MOVE ALONG THE REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONSIDERED VIEWS, IN ELABORATION OF PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 8 OF REFTEL, OF THE IMPACT OF INTRODUCING A U.S. QUID INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN DOING SO, WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS:

A. IS IT GOOD TACTICS TO TABLE AN OFFER WHEN THERE IS SO LITTLE AGREED ON WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US?

B. GIVEN THE PHIL WISH LIST (MANILA 9916), THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONSIDER OUR INITIAL OFFER WHOLLY INADEQUATE. WILL THIS NOT MAKE THEM EVEN MORE INTRACTABLE ON THE SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US? WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER TO WAIT TO INTRODUCE OUR QUID OFFER LATER, AFTER THE PHILS HAVE MOVED TOWARD US ON SOME OF THESE ISSUES?

C. WOULD THERE BE ANY VALUE OF SUGGESTING TO THE PHILS THAT THEY START BY GIVING US THEIR PRIORITIES YEAR BY YEAR ON THE WISH LIST WITHIN CURRENT MAP LEVELS? HOWEVER, PHILS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OUR QUID WILL BE PROVIDED IN FINITE AMOUNTS OF GRANT AND CREDIT ASSISTANCE, AND THAT RELATIVE PRIORITY OF WHAT IS TO BE PROCURED AND WHEN,

WITHIN AVAILABLE FUNDS, IS UP TO THEM.

3. WHILE WE WANT TO KEEP MOMENTUM IN NEGOTIATIONS, PHILS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WE CONSIDER A LASTING AGREEMENT A MORE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE THAN AN EARLY SIGNING DATE. ALSO IN OUR DELIBERATIONS WE ARE NOT TIED TO ANY SPECIFIC TIME-TABLE FOR PRESENTING THIS AGREEMENT TO THE CONGRESS.

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4. WE REALIZE THAT RECENT NEGOTIATIONS IN EUROPE MAKE OUR TASK MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. THESE DIFFICULTIES NOTWITHSTANDING, THEY SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN BY THE PHILS AS THE BEST EXAMPLES FOR PHILIPPINE CASE. WHILE SPANISH PRECEDENTS ARE VIEWED HERE AS SOMEWHAT LESS TROUBLESOME THAN THE TURKISH AND GREEK AGREEMENTS SHOULD THEY ULTIMATELY COME INTO FORCE, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE

SPANISH AGREEMENT DOES NOT INVOLVE AN ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP, WHILE THE LATTER TWO HAVE BEEN HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WE DO NOT CONSIDER APPLICABLE TO THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE NATURE AND PURPOSES OF THE FACILITIES ARE QUITE DIFFERENT.

5. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL AT THIS TIME ALSO IF DELEGATION WOULD SUMMARIZE:

A. THE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE PHILIPPINES, AS WELL AS THE PRINCIPAL AREAS WHERE IN YOUR JUDGMENT THE PHILIPPINES HAVE MOVED FROM THEIR EXTREME POSITIONS IN OUR DIRECTION.

B. THE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT AND HOW FAR APART WE ARE.

C. THE AREAS WHERE WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT PHILIPPINE MOVEMENT.

D. THE MOVES THAT WE MIGHT CONSIDER OTHER THAN QUID TO MOVE THE PHILS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT WE FIND SATISFACTORY.
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